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Aug 30, 2001

PGPUB-DOCUMENT-NUMBER: 20010018659

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DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20010018659 A1

TITLE: Imaging system protocol handling method and apparatus

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KMMC	Draw Desc	Image
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☐ 2. Document ID: US 6272469 B1

L1: Entry 2 of 2

File: USPT

Aug 7, 2001

US-PAT-NO: 6272469

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 6272469 B1

TITLE: Imaging system protocol handling method and apparatus

Full	Title	Citation	Front	Review	Classification	Date	Reference	Sequences	Attachments	Claims	KMMC	Draw Desc	Image
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L2: Entry 1 of 2

File: PGPB

Aug 30, 2001

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: US 20010018659 A1

TITLE: Imaging system protocol handling method and apparatus

Summary of Invention Paragraph (12):

[0009] The invention provides a novel approach to handling imaging and diagnostic system protocols designed to respond to these needs. The system may be integrated in a scanner interface which includes pages accessible through a browser-type or other graphical user interface system. At least one of the pages may be devoted to a listing and description of protocols installed on or available for the particular scanner. The technique may also be employed on centralized management stations, such as a station linking several scanners in a radiology department of a medical institution. The system may also provide information on preferred or useful configuration parameters for carrying out the protocol. The interface may also permit the protocol to be loaded or requested for specific examinations by simply selecting the protocol from a menu.

Detail Description Paragraph (7):

[0033] Where more than one medical diagnostic system is provided in a single facility or location, as indicated in the case of MRI and CT systems 14 and 16 in FIG. 1, these may be coupled to a management station 70, such as in a radiology department of a hospital or clinic. The management station may be linked directly to controllers for the various diagnostic systems, such as controllers 30 and 46 in the illustrated embodiment. The management system may include a computer workstation or personal computer 72 coupled to the system controllers in an intranet configuration, in a file sharing configuration, a client/server arrangement, or in any other suitable manner. Moreover, management station 70 will typically include a monitor 74 for viewing system operational parameters, analyzing system utilization, and exchanging service requests and data between the facility 20 and the service facility 22. Input devices, such as a standard computer keyboard 76 and mouse 78, may also be provided to facilitate the user interface. It should be noted that, alternatively, the management system, or other diagnostic system components, may be "stand-alone" or not coupled directly to a diagnostic system. In such cases, the service platform described herein, and some or all of the service functionality nevertheless be provided on the management system. Similarly, in certain applications, a diagnostic system may consist of a stand-alone or networked picture archiving communications and retrieval system or a viewing station provided with some or all of the functionality described herein.

Detail Description Paragraph (31):

[0057] The service request page 202, as shown in FIG. 8, includes graphical buttons 204 which permit the user to identify whether the service request is urgent or whether the request entails simply an applications question or non-urgent inquiry. In the illustrated embodiment, a series of interactive selections 206 are available, permitting the user to identify, if possible, the type of problem which may be occurring. Furthermore, a series of identification areas 208 allow the user to insert text to identify both the user, the user's location or telephone number, and other contact information. It should be noted that the server included in the uniform platform already includes unique system identification data which supplements the information input by the user. Such information may be input by a user, or may be supplied automatically by the system. Where the service request involves a specific image or examination sequence, the user may input such identifying data in a series of examination identification areas 210. Where the examination request involves an examination which has just been attempted or is underway, the data required in areas 210 may be transmitted directly from the modality controller. A further area 212 permits the user to identify or describe the type of service problem being experienced. A date stamp area 214 provides an identification of the date and time of the serviceable problem or question. In appropriate situations, a default time drawn from a system clock may be provided in this area, or the default time may be overridden by the

user. Finally, in the embodiment illustrated in FIG. 8, the user may complete and submit the service request by selecting a graphical send button 216. It should also be noted that in the illustrated embodiment, a graphical service center telephone directory button 218 is provided, by which the user may access numbers for immediately contacting the remote service facility.